for raising a "Wildlife Protection Force" at the Central Government level. Protection of wildlife and forest resources against organised gangs of poachers and smugglers of forest products is carried out by the State Governments through their respective well established protection machinery. Further, the State Governments position additional field staff as and when required to check poaching and smuggling of forest products. The Central Government also provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure for effective protection/conservation of wildlife and forest areas.

Misuse of Funds given for Yamuna cleaning

3767 : SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been instituted to investigate into the alleged misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken/proposed by Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds provided for cleaning up of Yamuna river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Only one case of irregularity was reported relating to the procurement of about 600 numbers of diesel generating sets for community toilet complexes constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi. The total cost of this component is Rs. 2.50 crore. An inquiry was conducted in the matter by the vigilance Department of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and no irregularity was found.

(c) The implementation of National River Conservation Plan which includes cleaning of Yamuna river is monitored by both the Government of India and the State Governments at various levels regularly. Funds are released to the implementing agencies/State Governments only after the receipt of proper Utilisation Certificates authenticated by competent authorities.